

Agenda Item 2A: Federal Advocacy Letters

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DOREEN FARR

Third District

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Fourth District, Vice Chair

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Fifth District



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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 31, 2016

The Honorable John Culberson, Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice and Science
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to request that you include the highest level of funding possible for local public safety needs in the *FY 2017 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations* bill, including:

- Reimbursement for the costs of adjudicating and incarcerating criminal illegal aliens under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP);
- The Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program;
- The COPS Community-Oriented Policing Program;
- Juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, including gang prevention;
- Violence against women and human trafficking;
- Prisoner reentry, diversion, and recidivism prevention activities, including those addressing the mentally ill;
- Drug and Veterans Court administration and treatment; and,
- DNA cold case prosecution and forensic laboratory services.

Federal assistance is critical to local efforts to effectively and efficiently implement law enforcement and public safety strategies. Unfortunately, the Administration's Budget request proposes significant reductions in or eliminate on of funding for several public safety programs of significance to local governments such as the County. Elimination of SCAAP is particularly troubling because of the impact of criminal illegal aliens on the County jail, a direct result of the Federal government's failure to fulfill its immigration-related responsibilities. As your subcommittee drafts the FY 2017 CJS spending measure, please work to ensure sufficient funding to address the public safety needs of Santa Barbara County and other local government entities.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 31, 2016

The Honorable Michael Honda
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Honda:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to request that you include the highest level of funding possible for local public safety needs in the *FY 2017 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations* bill, including:

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 31, 2016

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
SH-125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Mikulski:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to request that you include the highest level of funding possible for local public safety needs in the *FY 2017 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations* bill, including:

- Reimbursement for the costs of adjudicating and incarcerating criminal illegal aliens under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP);
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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 31, 2016

The Honorable Richard Shelby, Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science,
and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
SD-142 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to request that you include the highest level of funding possible for local public safety needs in the *FY 2017 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations* bill, including:

- Reimbursement for the costs of adjudicating and incarcerating criminal illegal aliens under the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP);
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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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April 5, 2016

The Honorable Ken Calvert, Chairman
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
And Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to request your support for EPA's State and Local Air Quality programs in the FY 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District is tasked with protecting the people and environment of Santa Barbara and its eight incorporated cities from the impacts of air pollution. EPA's State and Local Air Quality programs - specifically, the Section 103 & 105 programs - help provide the District with resources to perform basic air pollution control activities, including monitoring air quality, developing and planning control options, permitting and inspecting sources, enforcing laws and regulations, and educating the public.

The County urges you to work with your colleagues on the subcommittee to fund EPA's Section 103 & 105 State and Local Air Quality programs at the highest level possible in the FY 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

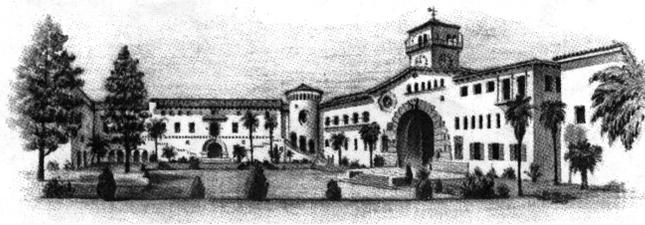
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April 5, 2016

The Honorable Betty McCollum
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
And Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to request your support for EPA's State and Local Air Quality programs in the FY 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

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The County urges you to work with your colleagues on the subcommittee to fund EPA's Section 103 & 105 State and Local Air Quality programs at the highest level possible in the FY 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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April 5, 2016

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
And Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
SD-301 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madame Chair:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to request your support for EPA's State and Local Air Quality programs in the FY 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District is tasked with protecting the people and environment of Santa Barbara and its eight incorporated cities from the impacts of air pollution. EPA's State and Local Air Quality programs - specifically, the Section 103 & 105 programs - help provide the District with resources to perform basic air pollution control activities, including monitoring air quality, developing and planning control options, permitting and inspecting sources, enforcing laws and regulations, and educating the public.

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Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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April 5, 2016

The Honorable Tom Udall
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment,
And Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
SD-301 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to request your support for EPA's State and Local Air Quality programs in the FY 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District is tasked with protecting the people and environment of Santa Barbara and its eight incorporated cities from the impacts of air pollution. EPA's State and Local Air Quality programs - specifically, the Section 103 & 105 programs - help provide the District with resources to perform basic air pollution control activities, including monitoring air quality, developing and planning control options, permitting and inspecting sources, enforcing laws and regulations, and educating the public.

The County urges you to work with your colleagues on the subcommittee to fund EPA's Section 103 & 105 State and Local Air Quality programs at the highest level possible in the FY 2017 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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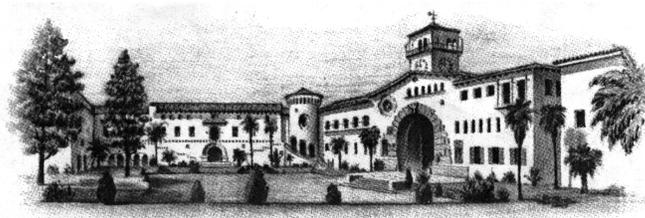
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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I am writing on behalf of the County to express its concerns with H.R. 4725, the *Common Sense Savings Act*, which could seriously jeopardize its ability to maintain health services for vulnerable residents, undermine its ability to protect local communities from ongoing and emerging public health threats, and shift costs to local taxpayers. These include:

Section 3, which would eliminate enhanced Medicaid payments for prisoners.

The so-called "inmate exception" that prevents otherwise-eligible individuals from receiving eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and CHIP benefits while they are in the County's jail awaiting trial unfairly shifts the cost burden to the County. However, long-standing policy has permitted Federal cost sharing under State Medicaid plans when an inmate's acute condition requires in-patient medical care not available with the jail itself. Elimination of this limited inmate exception further shifts the burden to the local taxpayer.

Sections 4 and 5, which would impose new limits on State's abilities to finance the non-Federal share of Medicaid and cut the Children's Health Insurance Program.

These provisions would reduce the financial capacity of counties such as Santa Barbara to provide health care for low-income residents, including children, again shifting the burden to local taxpayers.

Section 6, which would eliminate the Prevention and Public Health Fund.

The Prevention and Public Health Fund represents a significant and needed investment in prevention and public health. Amongst other uses, the Fund contributes one-third of the funding for CDC's immunizations programs, all of the funding for State block grants to detect and respond to infectious diseases, and half of the funding for CDC efforts to prevent heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.

The County of Santa Barbara urges you to oppose these provisions of H.R. 4725.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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First District

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April 26, 2016

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express concerns with H.R. 4725, the *Common Sense Savings Act*. Several of the provisions of this bill could seriously jeopardize the ability of Santa Barbara and other counties nationwide to maintain health services for vulnerable residents, undermine their ability to protect local communities from ongoing and emerging public health threats, and shift costs to local taxpayers. These include:

Section 3, which would eliminate enhanced Medicaid payments for prisoners.

The so-called "inmate exception" that prevents otherwise-eligible individuals from receiving eligible for Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, and CHIP benefits while they are in the County's jail awaiting trial unfairly shifts the cost burden to the County. However, long-standing policy has permitted Federal cost sharing under State Medicaid plans when an inmate's acute condition requires in-patient medical care not available with the jail itself. Elimination of this limited inmate exception further shifts the burden to the local taxpayer.

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The County of Santa Barbara urges you to oppose these provisions of H.R. 4725.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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April 26, 2016

The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express concerns with H.R. 4725, the *Common Sense Savings Act*. Several of the provisions of this bill could seriously jeopardize the ability of Santa Barbara and other counties nationwide to maintain health services for vulnerable residents, undermine their ability to protect local communities from ongoing and emerging public health threats, and shift costs to local taxpayers. These include:

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The County of Santa Barbara urges you to oppose these provisions of H.R. 4725.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

March 31, 2016

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara to express its concern with H.R. 4724, the *Reducing Duplicative and Ineffective Federal Funding Act, which would repeal the Title XX Social Services Block Grant (SSBG)*.

The State of California receives approximately \$190 million from SSBG annually, which it combines with TANF monies to provide funding for a variety of social services programs. Title XX funds are in turn allocated to the County of Santa Barbara for several programs of extreme importance to its citizens, including child welfare and adult services. The County continuously strives to deliver on its promise to provide the very best social services to its residents, and elimination of SSBG funding would greatly impede that effort.

The Committee on Ways and Means marked up and approved H.R 4724 on March 16, on a vote of 20-16, and it is currently pending the report to accompany the committee's action. Please oppose this or any similar legislation that would eliminate the Social Services Block Grant as a funding stream for local social services programs. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

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April 26, 2016

The Honorable Barbara Boxer
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 2051

Dear Senator Boxer:

I have sent the enclosed letters to Chairman Hatch and Ranking Minority Member Wyden of the Senate Finance Committee, expressing the support of the County of Santa Barbara for Senator Grassley's S. 2565, the *Protecting Families Affected By Substance Abuse Act*, which would reauthorize grants to assist children affected by methamphetamine, opioid, or other substance abuse under the promoting safe and stable families program.

Introduced by Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley and Majority Leader McConnell, S. 2565 would reauthorize the Regional Partnership Grants program for five years. These grants support regional partnerships for services, including early intervention and preventive services; child and family counseling; mental health services; parenting skills training; and replication of successful models for providing family-based, comprehensive long-term substance abuse treatment services. California counties such as Santa Barbara continue to experience an increase in drug-related incidents that impact children and families. Reauthorization of this important program would help to provide resources for children and their parents to receive critical substance abuse and supportive services.

Please consider cosponsoring the *Protecting Families Affected By Substance Abuse Act*, and urge your colleagues who serve on the Finance Committee to take action on S. 2565 or similar legislation to reauthorize the Regional Partnership Grants program. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

enclosures

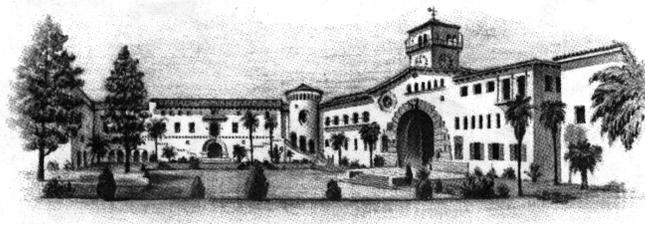
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April 26, 2016

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I have sent the enclosed letters to Chairman Hatch and Ranking Minority Member Wyden of the Senate Finance Committee, expressing the support of the County of Santa Barbara for Senator Grassley's S. 2565, the *Protecting Families Affected By Substance Abuse Act*, which would reauthorize grants to assist children affected by methamphetamine, opioid, or other substance abuse under the promoting safe and stable families program.

Introduced by Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley and Majority Leader McConnell, S. 2565 would reauthorize the Regional Partnership Grants program for five years. These grants support regional partnerships for services, including early intervention and preventive services; child and family counseling; mental health services; parenting skills training; and replication of successful models for providing family-based, comprehensive long-term substance abuse treatment services. California counties such as Santa Barbara continue to experience an increase in drug-related incidents that impact children and families. Reauthorization of this important program would help to provide resources for children and their parents to receive critical substance abuse and supportive services.

Please consider cosponsoring the *Protecting Families Affected By Substance Abuse Act*, and urge your colleagues who serve on the Finance Committee to take action on S. 2565 or similar legislation to reauthorize the Regional Partnership Grants program. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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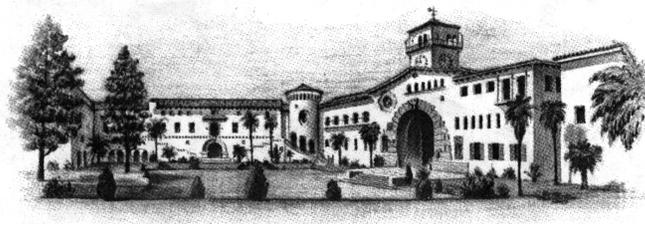
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April 26, 2016

The Honorable Orrin Hatch, Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mister Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of S. 2565, the *Protecting Families Affected By Substance Abuse Act*, which would reauthorize grants to assist children affected by methamphetamine, opioid, or other substance abuse under the promoting safe and stable families program.

Introduced by Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley and Majority Leader McConnell, S. 2565 would reauthorize the Regional Partnership Grants program for five years. These grants support regional partnerships for services, including early intervention and preventive services; child and family counseling; mental health services; parenting skills training; and replication of successful models for providing family-based, comprehensive long-term substance abuse treatment services. California counties such as Santa Barbara continue to experience an increase in drug-related incidents that impact children and families. Reauthorization of this important program would help to provide resources for children and their parents to receive critical substance abuse and supportive services.

Please work with the members of your committee to expedite action on S. 2565 or similar legislation to reauthorize the Regional Partnership Grants program. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg

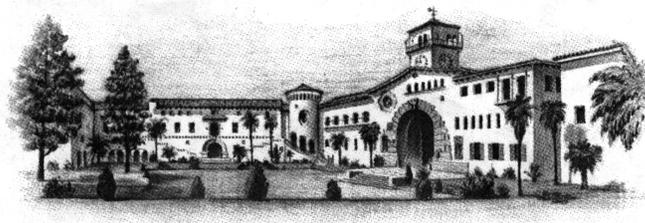
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April 26, 2016

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of S. 2565, the *Protecting Families Affected By Substance Abuse Act*, which would reauthorize grants to assist children affected by methamphetamine, opioid, or other substance abuse under the promoting safe and stable families program.

Introduced by Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley and Majority Leader McConnell, S. 2565 would reauthorize the Regional Partnership Grants program for five years. These grants support regional partnerships for services, including early intervention and preventive services; child and family counseling; mental health services; parenting skills training; and replication of successful models for providing family-based, comprehensive long-term substance abuse treatment services. California counties such as Santa Barbara continue to experience an increase in drug-related incidents that impact children and families. Reauthorization of this important program would help to provide resources for children and their parents to receive critical substance abuse and supportive services.

Please work with the members of your committee to expedite action on S. 2565 or similar legislation to reauthorize the Regional Partnership Grants program. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:awg